



(S) The Saudi Assassination Plot -- How It Was Thwarted

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(S) On Friday (see [article](#)) we announced that [REDACTED] had received an award for helping extinguish an assassination plot against the Saudi Crown Prince. Today, [REDACTED] tells how it played out...

(S) It began innocently enough. The simple investigation of an American traveling overseas carrying a large amount of U.S. currency secreted in his luggage. It blossomed into a case with international diplomatic implications involving a plot to assassinate the Saudi Crown Prince. Ultimately the assassination plot was thwarted, an international incident was averted and many of the leads derived from the investigation led to opening several other counterterrorism investigations. The success was accomplished by a truly multi-agency, multi-national collaborative operation. Information sharing at unprecedented levels turned a run-of-the-mill criminal investigation into an award winning counterterrorism investigation.

The Plot Unravels (U)

(S) In 2003, Abdurahman Alamoudi arrived at London's Heathrow Airport with almost \$325,000 hidden in his luggage. An alert airport security agent found the money. The British confiscated the money and allowed Alamoudi to continue his travel. FBI Special Agents arrested Alamoudi upon his return to the U.S. and began a joint investigation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Alamoudi is President of the American Muslim Foundation and a suspected supporter of terrorism.

(S) Also in late 2003, [REDACTED] was arrested in Cairo, Egypt and sent to Saudi Arabia because of his suspected involvement in facilitating terrorist activities in that country. During the course of Saudi Mabathith (Internal Security Service) interviews with [REDACTED], they discovered an elaborate international plot to foment unrest in Saudi Arabia. [REDACTED] was an agent of Libya's External Security Organization (ESO) and a close associate of Saif Al-Islam Qaddafi, Mu'ammar Qaddafi's son.

The Genesis of the Plot (U)

(S) As a result of a perceived insult and threat by the Saudi Crown Prince directed at Mu'ammar Qaddafi at the Arab League Summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Qaddafi uses his ESO and Saudi dissidents living in London, England to plan the assassination of the Saudi Crown Prince with the ultimate goal of bringing down the House of Saud Royal Family in Saudi Arabia.

The Plot Foiled (U)

(S) The plot unraveled because of a thorough, old-fashioned investigation strengthened by using many new intelligence techniques perfected after 9/11/01 with the help of the Patriot Act. [REDACTED] provided a wealth of information, but because of his detention in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, he would not be a viable witness in U.S. courts. With analytic assistance from NSA, metadata analysis, digital network intelligence information, travel tracking and collateral reporting were all used to corroborate much of what [REDACTED] alleged.

(S) At the same time, this wealth of intelligence tied the plot directly to Libyan leader Mu'ammar Qaddafi, while also leading to the conviction of Alamoudi, disrupting the plot to assassinate the Saudi Crown Prince, and allowing the UK insight into Saudi dissident activities in England. Intelligence derived and shared with the Saudi Mabathith also led to the discovery of a large, probably Al-Qaida-influenced network within Saudi Arabia.

(S) This investigation was a truly joint effort. FBI Washington Field Office (WFO), FBI HQs, BICE, Eastern District of Virginia (EDVA) attorneys, New Scotland Yard (Financial Intelligence Unit), Saudi Mabathith, CIA, and NSA were key players. NSA's contributions were significant. The North African Relations Branch's (S2E32) language analysts and reporters produced many products showing Libya's interest in the Saudi Royal family and confirmed the transfer of money in diplomatic pouches to the UK. In addition, several S2E32 Libya experts visited FBI WFO to brief agents, analysts and attorneys on key Qhadafi/ESO relationships in Libya. The Follow-the-People Branch (S2D32) was able to confirm many of the travel details of key players in this plot. And finally, the Counterterrorism Product Line (S2I) was able to provide significant metadata links to many (if not all) of the individuals implicated in the case.

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